THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The information is as under :

Sl. No.	Name of Organisation	Steps taken to fill up the post
1.	2.	3.
1.	Bombay Port Trust	Proposal is under process.
2.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust. . .	Do.
3.	Madras Port Trust.	Do.
4.	New Mangalore Port Trust. . .	Government approval for regular appointment to the post has been received, but the same is pending due to the Court case filed by Deputy Chairman, New Mangalore Port Trust.
5.	National Highway Authority of India. .	The future of National Highway Authority of India is under consideration. As yet there is no proposal to fill up the post for the present.

Flouting of Pollution norms by State Transport Authority

1559. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Transport Authority is flouting the norms laid down in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1989 in regard to control of pollution caused by diesel vehicles; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken against the said Authority for violation of the rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Involvement of Private Sector in the Expansion of Ports

1560. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to involve private sector in the expansion plant of different ports; and

(b) if so, what are the proposals drawn in this regard and response of the private sector thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major Port Trusts are advertising and have received offers about the facilities where private participation is required. The private sector has shown interest in development and operation of berths, container terminals and dry dock facilities.

Permits to NRI's for Plying Deluxe Buses in Delhi

1561. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to issue permits or licences to NRI's to ply deluxe buses along inner and outer ring road in Delhi, with a view to meet the commuter's requirements and essing out of over crowding in buses on these and other linked roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of deluxe buses to be so permitted and the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Construction of Bypass at Katni, M.P.

1562. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what progress has so far been made in connection with the projected construction of bypass on National Highway No. 7 at Katni (MP); and

(b) what was the original estimated cost thereof and the cost escalation, if any, incurred due to the delay in the implementation thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Alternative proposals for alignment of a bypass on National Highway No. 7 at Katni, based on survey and investigation carried out by the State PWD, are under correspondence. In view of this, no estimation of the cost of the project has been carried out.

(b) Does not arise.

Abolition of Octroi

1563. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Centre-State Ministerial Committee on Octroi and Road Tax has reached at a consensus that Octroi should be abolished; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to implement the decision in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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Cut in the Hessian Price by Bangladesh

@1564. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bangladesh has cut hessian prices by about $2 to $14 against India's price of about $14.70 per hundred yards thus affecting the prospects of Indian exports to hard currency areas; and

(b) if so, what is Government's strategy to overcome this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Bangladesh has reduced the prices of hessian from US$ 17 per hundred yards a few months ago to the current level of around US$14 per hundred yards.

(b) Competitive prices are offered by Indian exporters keeping in view the market demand and supply position.

Storage Capacity of Jute Corporation of India

1565. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to increase the storage capacity of the Jute Corporation of India in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not; the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) Jute Corporation of India hires godowns, as and when required to store the raw Jute purchased by it.

Earnings from the Export of Textile Goods

1566. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) what have been the earnings from export of textile goods during the last 2 years, Year-wise and the targets set for the current year;

@Previously unstarred question 585, transferred from 26th November, 1992.